

HOLLAND COUNTY COUNCIL,
LINCOLNSHIRE.

Annual Report

ON THE
County Health Services

PART 2.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health by

W. G. BOOTH, M.D., D.P.H.

1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The main part of this abridged report is taken over by Dr. Fielding's report on Tuberculosis. This has been asked for by the Ministry of Health, and it sets out in an admirable manner the position in this County with great clarity. The lack of sanatorium accommodation throughout England is a very great handicap to the fighting of this disease. Until some real effort is made to attract nurses into this specialised service, there seems no possibility of an improvement.

Development in the Council's Hospital services have continued, and details will be found in the report. Many of these should certainly be continued after the war and until the proposed National Health Service comes into operation.

The immunisation of children aged 1 year to 5 years in their homes by health visitors has now become an accepted part of our practice in this county. It is entirely successful.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. BOOTH.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	267,854
Population (Census 1931)	92,330
Population (Estimated mid-1943)	91,390
Rateable Value for the whole County (1st April, 1943)	£358,061
Produce of penny rate for whole County (1942—43)	£1,425

(b) Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births	Legitimate	794	834	1,628
	Illegitimate	46	48	94
	Total Births	840	882	1,722

Birth-rate per 1,000 population:—18.8.

Deaths from all causes:—1,057.

	Nett Death-rate.
Urban Districts	13.2
Rural Districts	10.5
Administrative County	11.6
England and Wales	12.1

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth	1
Rate per 1,000 total births ... ..	.6
Death-rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births	51.1
Deaths from measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6

BIRTH-RATE.—The birth-rate for 1943 was 18.8, the same as for 1942. The highest rate was in Spalding Urban District, namely 19.9.

Illegitimate births for the year were 5.5 per cent. of the total live births.

DEATH-RATE.—The net death-rate shows an increase as compared with 1942, the figures being 11.6 and 11.1, respectively. The highest rate was in Spalding Urban District (15.0), and the lowest in the Boston Rural District (9.5). The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.1.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.—The infant mortality rate for 1943 is 46.5 as compared with 46.9 for the previous year. The rate for England and Wales for the year 1943 was 49.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.—The number of women dying from conditions directly associated with child-birth (including sepsis) was 1. This was a rate of 0.6 per 1,000 births as compared with 3.3 for the previous year.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH.—The following table shows the chief killing diseases in the County of Holland during 1943.

Disease.	Total number of deaths.
Heart Disease	203
Cancer	147
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	115
Bronchitis	63
Pneumonia	48
Tuberculosis (all forms)	28

CANCER.—The number of deaths from cancer during 1943 was 147 compared with 163 in 1942. This figure represents 14 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes, a decrease on the previous year, when it was 15.8 per cent. The mortality rate per 1,000 of the population was 1.7.

The cancer scheme for the whole County of Lincolnshire, which came into operation in September, 1942, was continued throughout 1943, and was extended to cover surgical treatment.

During the year 92 cases received in-patient treatment, 182 cases attended the clinic at the Boston General Hospital, making 475 attendances. 80 cases received out-patient treatment at Scunthorpe Hospital, making 136 attendances.

The difficulty of transport has been overcome by using Civil Defence ambulances and cars, but it is expected that the present temporary arrangements will give place to a more comprehensive scheme when conditions permit.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1943. Urban and Rural Districts.

District.	Area in acres	Persons per acre 1931	Population (mid-year)	Births		Deaths		Deaths under 1 year of age.		Death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 population	Death-rate from all tubercular diseases per 1,000 population
				No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No	Rate per 1,000 reg'd births		
URBAN.											
Boston Borough	3257	6.9	—	393	18.5	264	12.2	18	45.8	0.28	0.41
Spalding Urban	7825	1.6	—	260	19.9	190	15.0	19	73.1	0.23	0.23
Totals for Urban Districts ..	11082	—	—	653	19.0	454	13.2	37	56.7	0.26	0.35
RURAL.											
Boston	84408	.2	—	357	18.9	179	9.5	13	36.1	0.21	0.32
Spalding	87770	.2	—	304	17.6	194	11.2	16	52.6	0.23	0.29
East Elloe	84594	.3	—	408	19.5	230	11.0	22	53.1	0.29	0.33
Totals for Rural Districts ..	256772	—	—	1069	18.5	603	10.5	51	47.7	0.25	0.32
Administrative County ..	267854	—	91390	1722	18.8	1057	11.6	88	51.1	0.25	0.33
England and Wales					16.5		12.1		49.0		

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	All Ages
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Measles .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Whooping Cough .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza .. .. .	..	..	..	7	2	18	27
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	..	..	11	9	2	23
Other tuberculous diseases	2	..	2	2	..	1	7
Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer .. .. .	..	..	1	12	58	76	147
Diabetes .. .. .	..	..	..	1	2	6	9
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	1	..	..	4	27	83	115
Heart disease .. .. .	..	..	1	8	33	161	203
Acute Polio-myelitis, etc. .. .. .	..	1	..	..	4	37	42
Other circulatory diseases .. .. .	..	1	..	1	11	49	63
Bronchitis	1	8	..	6	7	15	48
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	..	..	2	2	8	12
Other respiratory diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	2	5	2	9
Peptic ulcer .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Diarrhoea under two years	6	..	2	3	..	1	6
Appendicitis .. .. .	..	..	..	4	7	13	6
Other digestive diseases	1	..	..	2	6	9	25
Acute and chronic nephritis .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	18
Puerperal sepsis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other maternal causes .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	62	..	1	2	1	..	66
Road accidents .. .. .	..	..	4	2	1	..	7
Suicide .. .. .	..	..	..	4	5	..	9
Other violent causes .. .. .	..	3	2	9	3	3	20
All other causes	2	6	3	6	21	150	188
ALL CAUSES	88	20	16	94	205	634	1057

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.—The number of cases notified was 19, including 5 cases in the Borough of Boston, and there were no deaths. The following figures show the number of children immunised in the part of the County which is administered by the County Council for maternity and child welfare and school medical service purposes.

District.	Children under 5 years.	Children aged 5—15.
Spalding Urban	212	177
Boston Rural	295	270
East Elloe Rural	277	275
Spalding Rural	189	151
	—————	—————
	973	873
	—————	—————

A new departure in immunisation was made during 1943. The ordinary methods, namely, by immunisation at school, infant welfare centres and through general practitioners, have all been in operation in this county since 1933, and have resulted in a rate of 80 per cent. among school children, but only 30 per cent. among children under five. One of the weaknesses in the scheme in a rural area is the inaccessibility of the children. A considerable percentage are unable to visit a welfare centre without great difficulty, and to visit their own doctor's surgery whilst the child is well is not in accordance with the ideas of the average parent.

It was felt that only by some personal contact and persuasion should we be able to secure a percentage of immunised children under five in any way comparable to the school children. We have in our health visitors a body of trained nurses in every way competent to give the simple injections required for immunisation; they are well-known to the mothers and are associated in the minds of the public with preventive rather than remedial medicine. They are also well used to persuading mothers to avail themselves of public services.

Approach was made to the Ministry of Health and, after many difficulties were overcome, the scheme commenced in 1943. At the same time immunisation by the general practitioners was extended to cover work in the homes and up to five years of age.

It soon became obvious that we had found the solution to complete immunisation. The health visitors were enthusiastic about the scheme, as they felt they were using their nursing qualifications to some purpose, and they were able to secure for their mothers the advantages of the scheme at the earliest practicable time. A sense of friendly rivalry arose, as to the highest percentage of immunised children in each health visitor's area, and an 80 per cent. immunised population of under fives quickly developed.

There is little doubt that we have solved the problem of immunisation as far as administrative procedure is concerned. What is now required is a one-shot immunisation, and patient application of the new approach.

Whooping Cough.—234 cases were reported, 96 of which were in the Boston Borough district. There was no death.

Erysipelas.—23 cases were notified.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.—1 case was notified in the East Elloe Rural District, and 1 in the Spalding Rural District. There were 2 deaths.

Pneumonia.—103 cases of pneumonia were notified, an increase of 61 on the previous year. There were 48 deaths.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—2 cases occurred during the year and there was one death.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—5 cases were notified, 4 of these being in the area administered by the County Council for maternity and child welfare purposes. Throughout the County there were no deaths from puerperal sepsis.

Measles.—1417 cases were notified and there were no deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—15 cases (including 6 in the Borough of Boston) were notified. All made satisfactory recoveries.

Scabies.—This disease is not notifiable and the number of actual cases is not known. The County Council provided in-patient accommodation at the Annexe Hospital, Boston, and at Freiston Hall Sick Bay, the number of cases so treated being 39 and 8 respectively. 160 cases attended the Minor Ailments clinics for treatment. The Spalding Urban District Council has a cleansing station in Spalding to which patients are referred if necessary.

Vaccination.—The table on page 9 shows that in 1942 (the last year for which complete figures are available), 10 per cent. of the children whose births were registered during the year were vaccinated. This is an increase of 1.1 per cent. on the previous year.

Infectious Diseases notified in Holland County for the year ending 31st December, 1943.

District.	Encephalitis Lethargica	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Polio-myelitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Pneumonia.	Chicken Pox.	Measles.	Total.
Urban Districts																
Boston	1	—	99	5	—	43	—	1	1	6	12	6	24	44	269	495
Spalding	1	—	28	1	11	32	—	—	—	1	8	4	20	—	256	362
Rural Districts																
Boston	—	—	84	5	4	34	—	1	—	6	7	2	19	33	377	565
Spalding	—	—	20	1	3	35	1	—	—	2	11	8	17	—	152	250
East Elloe	—	2	6	7	5	46	1	3	—	—	13	5	26	1	380	495
Totals	2	2	234	19	23	190	2	5	1	15	*51	25	103	78	1417	2167

All the Sanitary Authorities are included in a Joint Board. The ordinary cases of infectious disease are accommodated at Boston. The Fleet Isolation Hospital is reserved for smallpox.

* 13 of the above notified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were Service cases.

VACCINATION—RETURNS MADE BY VACCINATION OFFICERS.

Return respecting vaccinations of children whose births were registered from 1st January to 31st December, 1942, inclusive.								
Registration Sub-District.	Births Registered	Successfully vaccinated	Insusceptible of vaccination	Conscientious objections	Died unvaccinated	Removals	Not accounted for	Preliminary return for the year 1943.
								Successful primary vaccinations
								Conscientious objections
Boston Urban	498	34	—	451	13	—	—	25
Boston Rural	321	34	—	276	11	—	—	24
Holbeach	204	37	1	150	5	10	1	34
Long Sutton	132	14	1	108	4	4	—	17
Gedney Hill	34	7	—	27	—	—	—	2
Donington	30	2	1	26	1	—	—	—
Gosberton	56	10	—	41	3	2	—	6
Spalding, Cowbit and Pinchbeck	334	30	1	258	12	20	13	36
Moulton	48	3	—	38	3	—	4	2
Deeping St. Nicholas	25	3	—	20	1	1	—	4
Crowland	44	—	—	34	2	1	7	—
Totals	1726	174	4	1429	55	38	25	150
								1347

MATERNITY AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the County Council midwives during the year:—

District	No. of visits				Total number of visits
	Ante-natal		De- livery	Lying- in	
	Home	Clinic			
Boston, Wyberton and Fishtoft	829	872	294	4417	6512
Tydd St. Mary and Sutton St. James	132	—	11	166	309
Totals	961	872	305	4583	6821

Arrangements were made in January, 1943, by which gas and air analgesia apparatus was kept at the Allan House and Bargate First Aid Posts, Boston. On the request of one of the Council's midwives, this apparatus is taken out by one of the Red Cross members to the confinement. In this way the regulations of the Central Midwives Board that a midwife must have another nurse or a member of the Red Cross Society present when gas and air analgesia is given is met.

90 women had analgesia during the year.

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practice within the County during 1943 was 36, all of whom were trained women. This, of course, covers changes and relief duties. The number practising at the end of the year was 32. Routine, in addition to special inspections, were carried out during the year. Medical aid was sought by midwives in 288 cases, the classification being as follows :—

PREGNANCY.

Purulent discharge	I
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	11
Abortion or threatened abortion	7
Swelling of legs	5
Albuminuria	8
Miscarriage	22
Varicose Veins	8
Other conditions	12

LABOUR.

Malpresentation	...	...	...	...	...	14
Excessive bleeding	...	...	...	...	...	1
Retained or adherent placenta	...	...	...	...	...	9
Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	...	...	76
Delayed labour	...	...	...	...	...	24
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	...	5

LYING-IN.

Rise of temperature	...	...	...	...	...	10
Post-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other conditions	...	...	...	...	...	6

CHILD.

Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous feebleness	...	...	...	...	...	23
Inflammation of eyes	...	...	...	...	...	9
Stillbirth	...	...	...	...	...	16
Malformation	...	...	...	...	...	9

Notifications of artificial feeding numbered 16, and of deaths of children, 4.

CONSULTATIONS.

During 1943, 33 maternity cases were referred to the Consultants for the following conditions:—Small pelvis, 2; Pelvic contraction, 2; Ante-partum hæmorrhage, 2; Hyperpiesis, 1; Retained placenta, 1; Puerperal pyrexia, 4; Eclampsia, 1; Breech presentation, 4; Toxæmia, 7; Disproportion, 7; Fibroids, 1; others, 4.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

During the year, 15 cases were treated by the County dentists. 25 cases in which dentures were necessary were treated by private dentists under the Council's scheme and contributions recovered in accordance with the scale.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The visitation and supervision of children maintained for reward by foster-parents is undertaken by the County Health Visitors. At the close of the year, there were 13 such children in the charge of 13 foster-parents.

Children boarded out by the Public Assistance Committee received frequent visits from the Health Visitors.

MATERNITY BEDS.

219 cases were dealt with at the Spalding Institution, but there is a real necessity for more accommodation for patients in the North of the County.

During the first full working year since the opening of the Holbeach Maternity Unit, 199 maternity cases were delivered, resulting in 187 live births, 10 stillbirths and 2 abortions. 4 caesarian sections were performed. At the ante-natal clinic held in Holbeach, 122 new patients were seen, who made a total of 619 attendances. The Maternity Unit appears to meet a real need in the district.

Apart from Holbeach, difficult midwifery cases are admitted by special arrangement to Boston and West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospitals, and cases of puerperal pyrexia to the Isolation Hospital at Boston. During the year, 29 cases were dealt with in Boston General Hospital, and 4 at the Boston Isolation Hospital.

The County Council is the Supervising Authority for the whole County (including the Borough of Boston). The number of cases attended in the area during the year by midwives was as follows:—

	Domiciliary. Cases.	Cases in Institutions.	Totals.
As midwives	736	473	1,209
As maternity nurses	305	166	471

CARE OF CHILDREN OF LAND WORKERS.

No action has yet been taken regarding the setting up of a Day Nursery at Spalding.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

In spite of war conditions, the work at the Infant Welfare Centres has been fully maintained and attendances of mothers and children have been very satisfactory. The amount of national dried milk issued is increasing but proprietary brands of dried milk are still available if required.

The figures for the County Welfare Centres are as follows:—

	Crowland	Donington	Holbeach	Kirton	Long Sutton	Spalding	Sutton Bridge	Swineshead	Wraggle
Number of Sessions ..	49	51	51	52	52	102	50	50	51
NEW CASES—									
Mothers	41	32	94	98	68	227	118	50	59
Children under 1 year	37	80	96	82	81	199	81	57	48
Children over 1 year	5	32	27	42	12	39	54	17	16
OLD CASES—									
Mothers	769	1313	2131	893	3250	2587	2197	883	1224
Children under 1 year	579	912	1175	515	1538	1674	1404	629	899
Children over 1 year	469	667	1219	552	1817	1307	1428	544	472
No. of Consultations	142	288	735	290	492	710	407	221	364
No. of ante-natal attendances	38	2	497	8	—	529	345	—	—
No. of Health Talks ..	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—

By arrangement with the Boston Corporation, mothers and babies resident in the County area may attend the Boston Infant Welfare Centre.

New cases attending Centre	99
Attendances of children under 1 year	592
Attendances of children over 1 year	245

HEALTH VISITING.

A total of 21,961 visits were made by the County Health Visitors to children under school age, namely, 9,756, to children under 1 year of age and 12,205 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

In spite of difficulties, 340 samples were taken by the Sampling Officer during the year; this is an increase of 4 on the previous

year. The nature of the samples was as follows:—Milk 284, Ground Ginger 2, Butter 4, Cheese 1, Baking Mixture 1, Coffee 1, Meat Paste 2, Lard 4, Margarine 4, Sausages 1, Sugar 2, Malt Vinegar 2, Soup Powder 1, Aspirin Tablets 3, Canned Fish 1, Fish Paste 4, Meat Extract 1, Essence 3, Pudding Mixture 2, Spices and Condiments 3, Halibut Liver Oil 1, Self-raising flour 1, Tea 3, Canned Soup 1, Soya flour 1, Gelatine Powder 1, Castor Oil 1, Eucalyptus Oil 2, Eucalyptus Ointment 1, Spirit of Nitre 2.

The table below shows the action taken with regard to samples reported as being below standard or adulterated:—

No.	Nature of sample.	Nature of Irregularity.	Action taken.
1.	Milk.	2½% Extraneous Water.	To be resampled.
2.	Milk.	5% Fat Deficiency.	Warning given.
3.	Milk.	1½% Extraneous Water.	Informal sample—to be followed up.
4.	Milk.	2½% Extraneous Water.	Informal sample—to be followed up.
5.	Milk.	5% Fat Deficiency.	Warning given.
6.	Milk.	5% Extraneous Water.	Hortvet test not possible owing to souring of sample. To be resampled.
7.	Milk.	13% Fat Deficiency.	Informal sample. To be re-sampled.
8.	Milk.	3% Fat Deficiency.	Formal sample taken.
9.	Milk.	20% Fat Deficiency.	Formal sample taken.
10.	Milk.	10% Fat Deficiency.	Formal sample taken.
11.	Milk.	2% Extraneous Water.	No action.
12.	Milk.	16% Fat Deficiency.	Warning given.
13.	Milk.	5% Fat Deficiency.	Warning given.
14.	Milk.	2% Fat Deficiency.	No action.
15.	Milk.	39% Fat Deficiency.	Fined £1.
16.	Milk.	4½% Extraneous Water.	Under observation.
17.	Milk.	10% Extraneous Water.	Formal sample taken—Satisfactory.
18.	Milk.	5% Extraneous Water.	Delivery of sample delayed. To be resampled.
19.	Milk.	7% Extraneous Water.	Delivery of sample delayed. To be resampled.
20.	Milk.	12% Fat Deficiency.	Warning given.
21.	Milk.	11% Fat Deficiency.	Informal sample. To be re-sampled.
22.	Milk.	35% Extraneous Water.	Informal sample. To be re-sampled.
23.	Milk.	19% Fat Deficiency.	Informal sample—Followed up by formal sample.
24.	Milk.	6% Fat Deficiency.	Followed up.
25.	Milk.	8% Extraneous Water.	Warning given.
26.	Milk.	8% Extraneous Water.	No action—Owner ceased production.
27.	Milk.	4% Extraneous Water.	To be resampled.
28.	Milk.	3% Extraneous Water.	To be resampled.

ORTHOPÆDIC SCHEME.

Twenty-nine Orthopædic Clinics were held at the Centres at Boston, Spalding and Holbeach. During 1943, 301 cases were seen at the Clinics and the number of attendances made was 678 (School attendances cases 133, attendances 298).

The following table shows the classification of cases according to the nature of the disease:—

	Adults.	School cases.	Under school age.
Tuberculosis (Surgical).			
Tabes Mesenterica	—	1	—
Tubercular glands of neck ...	3	18	2
Tuberculosis of bones or joints ...	15	4	1
Observation cases	3	—	2
Non-tuberculous conditions.			
Hare-lip	—	—	1
Postural deformities of spine ...	—	6	1
Rachitic deformities	—	7	6
Paralytic deformities	5	5	1
Congenital deformities of foot ...	4	6	5
Torticollis	—	6	7
Spina Bifida	—	2	—
Congenital dislocation of hip ...	—	4	—
Bow legs	—	—	9
Hallux Valgus, hammer toes, etc.	5	3	1
Osteomyelitis	7	1	—
Hernia	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	2	4	—
Scoliosis	8	7	—
Flat feet	—	15	1
Fractures	20	9	3
Potts disease	3	—	—
Undescended testes	—	8	1
Cervical adenitis	—	1	—
Webbed fingers	—	2	—
Naevus	—	3	15
Pes Varus and Pes Valgus ...	3	8	10
Other conditions	7	13	12
Umbilical hernia	—	—	3
	85	133	83

The orthopædic nurses have continued with the domiciliary work in North and South Holland respectively. The orthopædic block at the Holland County Emergency Hospital, Boston, has been continuously full, and cases have also been accommodated in Wyberton West Hospital, Boston, and in out-county institutions.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

Action taken during the year has been confined to work of routine nature. 9 cases were referred by the Local Education Authorities ; 3 of these were sent to Certified Institutions. In all, 17 patients were admitted under " order " to the institutions of the Lincs. Joint Board. 131 reception orders were in force at the end of the year, including 12 patients on licence. 7 new cases were placed under statutory supervision.

The following table shows the position in the County as on 31st December, 1943 :—

INSTITUTIONS UNDER " ORDER "

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 16 years of age	12	6	18
Aged 16 years and over	44	57	101
ON LICENCE FROM INSTITUTIONS	4	8	12
UNDER GUARDIANSHIP	—	1	1
UNDER STATUTORY SUPERVISION	87	72	159
Cases under Voluntary Supervision ...	14	17	31

MENTAL TREATMENT ACT.

There is a clinic for early mental cases at the Lincoln County Hospital and cases can also be seen at the Bracebridge Mental Hospital. Six voluntary patients were admitted to the Bracebridge Heath Hospital during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

This work is being carried out by the Local Sanitary Authorities within the County to whom the powers have been delegated by the County Council.

CIVIL NURSING RESERVE.

The Local Emergency Committee for the Nursing Profession has met regularly to deal with applications for enrolment and other questions appertaining to the Reserve. At the end of the year, the register of personnel was as follows :—

	Mobile Whole-time.	Immobile Whole-time.	Immobile Part-time.
Trained Nurses	2	10	8
Assistant Nurses	8	6	7
Nursing Auxiliaries	51	29	149

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

The Committee of the Boston and Holland Blind Society acts on behalf of the County Council for the administration of blind welfare throughout the County. The Society was founded on 1st October, 1917, and has been responsible for the various developments of the services during that period. The report shows that, at the present time, 3 children are at special schools, 1 boy is in training as a basket maker, and there are 12 registered home workers. The Secretary and Home Teacher have paid 3,672 visits in connection with welfare work and some 94 necessitous blind persons, with their dependants, have received regular grants of domiciliary assistance during the year.

On March 31st, 1944, the number of registered blind persons was 140, an increase of 11 on last year's figure.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
New cases registered	5	12	17
Deaths	5	2	7
Decertified (Successful cataract operation)	1	1	2
Transfers in	3	1	4
Transfers out	—	1	1

TABLE I.

Summary of present age periods. Age at which blindness occurred.

Age.	M.	F.	Total.	Age.	M.	F.	Total.
5—16	3	1	4	0—1	10	11	21
16—21	5	3	8	1—5	4	3	7
21—40	8	8	16	5—10	—	2	2
40—50	3	7	10	10—20	—	3	3
50—65	17	18	35	20—30	4	7	11
65—70	6	9	15	30—40	7	3	10
70 and over	19	33	52	40—50	9	7	16
				50—60	10	13	23
				60—70	10	10	20
				70 and over	7	20	27

TABLE II.

61 79 140

LABORATORY FACILITIES—COUNTY LABORATORY.

The County Laboratory continues to play an important part in connection with the health services and hospitals and is also at the disposal of private practitioners when investigations are required by them. Advantage has been taken, when necessary, of the pathological service instituted by the Ministry of Health.

The following table shows the scope of the work undertaken during the year:—

Nature of Test.	Number of tests performed.
Smears and deposits for Tubercle bacilli ...	479
Cultures for Tubercle bacilli	152
Biological Tests for Tubercle bacilli	52
Throat Swabs	365
Cultures, Various	476
Cultures for Typhoid Dysentery Group Organisms	98
Blood Cultures	10
Cultures for Gonococci	355
Smears for Gonococci	447
Routine Urines	16
Designated Milks	80
Other Milks	11
Blood Counts	381
Urea estimation blood or urine	128
Blood Sugar estimations	59
Waters	62
Simple smears and deposits	79
Fractional test meals	46
Cerebro-spinal Fluid	23
Pleural Fluid	12
Urine classification of sugar	3
Widal agglutinations for separate organisms ...	185
Occult Blood	25
Van den Bergh's reaction	1
Vaccines	3
Worms and Ova	2
Blood Grouping	12
Other tests	3
<hr/>	
Total	3,565
<hr/>	

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936—38.

There were only 21 accredited producers in the County at the end of the year, as 4 registered producers decided to give up milk production.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The number of new recent infections which attended for the first time for treatment at the County Clinics compares with figures obtaining in 1940, 1941, and 1942 as follows:—

		Spalding.	Boston.
Year 1940	... ..	17	26
„ 1941	... ..	15	28
„ 1942	... ..	16	26
„ 1943	... ..	25	26

The above figures only apply to persons normally resident in the County.

In connection with Regulation 33B, notices on Form 1 in respect of 6 suspected persons (1 man and 5 women) were received during the year. All these cases were followed up informally.

Abstract relating to Holland patients treated at the Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres.

	Boston	Spald- ing	Peter- borough and Ketton	Lynn	Total
A—Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from—					
Syphilis	11	7	1	2	21
Soft Chancre ..	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea ..	15	18	—	—	33
Conditions other than Venereal	42	25	4	2	73
Total	68	50	5	4	127
B—Attendances of all patients	1111	501	165	4	1781

Cases requiring institutional treatment have been dealt with in the Scarthoe Road Institution, Grimsby.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Dr. Fielding, Tuberculosis Officer, reports :—

The Ministry of Health have asked that the tuberculosis report for the year under review should be more detailed and of greater scope, than the annual resumé's which have been presented since the outbreak of war. Tuberculosis is essentially a disease of war, and it is now convenient and opportune to show that in spite of an ever-increasing burden of work which has fallen on the County Health Department, especially on those responsible for the Tuberculosis services, these particular services have been especially fostered and developed.

The administration has been greatly assisted by the team work of the several clerks of the Health Department to whom I am much indebted. As will be seen later, the Executive of the After-Care Committee and the splendid, untiring work of the Tuberculosis Health Visitor deserve high praise and commendation.

Two outstanding features occurred in 1943, the one was the Government scheme relating to payment of Treatment Allowances to certain specified cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, including cases suffering from pleural effusions, and the second feature was the apparent attainment of the peak of chest radiology in the County.

Briefly, the Government scheme was brought into being under existing powers of emergency legislation; it was held, and rightly so, that if early sufferers from pulmonary tuberculosis could be brought under institutional or domiciliary treatment quickly without undue financial worries, the war effort would be directly aided. The key to the allowances is that there should be reasonable prospects of the patient returning to productive work, but, for the time being at least, the key is not a master.

In this County the scheme is administered by the chief clerk and the second clerk of the Public Health Department, who have received the appointments of assessment officers. Their work is mainly done by correspondence, but naturally personal interviews are given when desired.

The allowances are sent every two weeks by post from the County Accountant's Department.

The scheme was begun on October 3rd, 1943, and the number of cases receiving allowances up to the end of the year was 17. Initially the scheme might have begun on August 1st, but our view was that the exclusion of chronic cases of pulmonary tuberculosis

and of surgical tuberculosis was not conducive to the smooth working of the scheme. The Ministry of Health was approached on May 20th to see if we could, under the provision of Section 173 of the Public Health Act, 1936, make allowances to those persons who have been excluded from the provisions of the Memorandum 266T. A reply received showed that the Ministry deprecated the step which had been proposed. The scheme, with its limitations, was therefore begun, and it is fair to say that Memorandum 266T has been described as the most important single document dealing with tuberculosis published since the last war.

The main Tuberculosis Dispensary is situated in the out-patient department of the Holland County Emergency Hospital which houses the X-Ray plant, serving also the needs of the Wyberton West Hospital. In addition, a portable X-Ray Unit installed since the outbreak of war has been of the greatest practical value. Regular sessions are held at the combined clinic in Spalding, a weekly chest clinic is held at the Johnson Hospital and also at the Holbeach Emergency Hospital.

Minor dispensaries are held in the more rural areas as occasion demands, and these are entirely for the following-up of known cases. Gone are the days when the Tuberculosis Officer reported in 1937 that a patient living in the more remote parts of the County may well have to travel 50 miles for the purpose of an X-Ray.

In these circumstances suspect cases would inevitably postpone the all important X-Ray and, similarly, contact X-Rays would be few and far between. One direct result was—a circumstance which still tends to remain—that patients crossed the border for diagnosis and investigation. It was a good thing that a diagnosis had been established, yet it was not satisfactory to receive a notification from an outside authority relating to a County resident. It meant that no real clinical or administrative control could be obtained. Such a notification was simply a piece of paper and not a living key to a family problem. When it happens now, can the Tuberculosis Officer, for example, recommend such a patient for the treatment allowances. The problem is difficult, especially where the County cannot offer any sanatoria beds which would attract patients to remain within the confines of their own area. An increase of diagnostic facilities in the County was a matter of some urgency. The closure of the one gap in the Tuberculosis Service was begun in 1941, when a mobile X-Ray unit was installed in the Holbeach Emergency Hospital; this machine covers the requirements of the East Elloe Rural District. A second and final gap was closed in 1942, when a scheme was begun whereby patients could be X-Rayed

at the Johnson Hospital, Spalding; most excellent co-operation has been given by the practitioners and by the nursing staff. The 50-mile journey of 1937 is now reduced to some 15 or 20 miles, and if public utility vehicles are not available, then the Tuberculosis Officer, who is also the Ambulance Officer, has no difficulty in providing the necessary transport.

Every effort has been made to promote the full use of the three X-Ray plants which are available for the normal working of the Tuberculosis Officer. The prompt forwarding of X-Ray reports to doctors concerning new cases referred for an opinion and of serial reports of known diagnosed cases, has, I am quite convinced, been largely responsible for the marked growth of X-Ray work.

Comparing the number of chest films taken in the two years prior to 1939 with the number taken in 1943, it is clearly evident that a remarkable advance has been made. In 1937 it is recorded that 273 films were taken, and in 1938 the number was 285. These figures then were the sum total of chest radiology for those years and far from satisfactory. In 1943 it is with great satisfaction that I have to report that 1,210 X-Rays were read and reported on by the Tuberculosis Officer. This number includes 97 films taken under the Emergency Medical Scheme, where the possibility of a tuberculous infection was raised, and it also covers the use of the Tomogram, which was employed in 11 cases, and a number of in-patients conceivably tuberculous, and routine films of the nursing staff in Boston and Holbeach.

The following scheme shows briefly the distribution of the X-Ray work:—

	New cases.	Pulm. Tub.	Contacts.	E.M.S.	Total
BOSTON	337	330	91	64	822
HOLBEACH	136	45	23	33	237
SPALDING	66	56	29	—	151
Grand Total					1,210

Since the outbreak of war this special branch of work has increased fourfold.

In 1942 the total X-Ray work for the year was 841 made up as follows:—Boston 546, Holbeach 246, Spalding (part year) 49.

Below are shown the average death rates from tuberculosis in the 5 year period 1938—1942 for comparison with the death rate per 1,000 of the population occurring in 1943.

	Pulm. Tuberculosis.	Non. Pulm. Tub.	All forms.
1938—1942	.38	.11	.49
1943	.25	.07	.33

Mortality figures are a more reliable indication of the true incidence of tuberculosis than the notification rate, and it is reasonable to say, with regard to this disease, that if the mortality is falling, then its incidence is also falling.

An analysis of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis during the 5 year period 1938 to 1942, inclusive, shows that 160 deaths were recorded, distributed as follows:—

Rural Districts.		Urban Districts.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
40	44	41	35

126 of these deaths occurred in the age groups 15—45, there being 68 in rural districts and 58 in the urban districts; the sex distribution in this 15—45 group is equal, giving 63 deaths in both males and females, almost 80 per cent. of the total deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis in this five-year period.

When people are at the time of life where they are giving their best to the community, they appear to be more prone to fatal disease. It may well have been that early symptoms were ignored, that medical advice was not sought until it was too late.

Extracting the deaths from the groups of patients who had reached the age of 15 but had not attained the age of 35, there are 76 deaths, but in the 15-year group, 56 deaths are recorded in patients who had not reached the age of 25, this number being 35 per cent. of the total.

In rural districts the figures for females in this 15—25 age period are high, namely, 23 deaths as against 12 male deaths. In the urban districts the figures are 12 female and 12 male. When dealing with numbers, which are in themselves small, no concrete conclusions can be made, but it does seem clear that tuberculosis can be so subtle, so gradual in its approach, and so relentless that when diagnosis is made, the lungs are greatly ravaged with chronic disease.

To the older people I would say if there is bronchitis, some shortness of breath, or laryngitis, report to your doctor. To the younger people, if there is loss of energy, loss of weight, debility or anæmia, consult your doctor; an X-Ray can be quickly arranged with little inconvenience.

Under the National Service (Armed Forces) Act, 1939, civilian medical boards, dealing with the examination of recruits, refer men and women suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis or if there is a family history of a known case. These patients are examined at the County Emergency Hospital. No case of tuberculosis was found in the year.

Details are also given under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1940, to the Ministry of Labour and National Service of males who are registered as having suffered or are suffering from tuberculosis.

Similarly details of females born in specific years are forwarded to the Ministry of Labour and National Service under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1942.

Prior to 1939, that important branch of the Tuberculosis Service, the work of the Tuberculosis Health Visitor, was conducted by Health Visitors. Liaison between the Tuberculosis Officer and the Health Visitors was not an easy matter; it was therefore decided to appoint a whole-time tuberculosis visitor. This appointment has been most successful, in that the supervision of her work has been facilitated and closer co-operation experienced by frequent consultations.

The following figures show how the number of home visits has increased:—In 1937 the Health Visitors made 1,471 visits, in 1938 the number was 1,163, in 1942 this number had become 2,582, which is almost double the average for 1937—1938. She had been well-occupied teaching the care of the sick and the essential rules of hygiene to relatives who have had to nurse cases of tuberculosis at home; providing sputum boxes, stimulating contacts of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases to attend for X-Ray on receipt of appointments, and acting as a link between patient and After-Care Committee.

The closure of the sanatorium has caused many difficulties; cases suffering from advanced disease at the time of diagnosis have to receive enforced domiciliary treatment. There are no hospital beds for these cases, and sanatoria beds have to be sought outside the County and the number available for County residents is few and far between. Thus it is that the Health Visitor has had to be especially watchful in her routine visiting. Parents are most reluctant to board their children out when an open case of tuberculosis has been discovered in the household. It is not easy in these difficult times to find foster-parents. Several cases were approached to see if the infants in these particular households could be sent to Freiston Hall Sick Bay, but no co-operation was received. Perhaps this idea of prevention will slowly grow in years to come.

A case in point is of particular interest. An infant, born of a tuberculous mother, whose disease was well controlled, was boarded out on two occasions and taken home by its mother, whereupon the tuberculous grandmother showered it with germs and affection. The grandmother died and the child now has tuberculosis of the lungs and tuberculosis of the hands.

It is not good that a Tuberculosis Officer should be divorced from sanatoria beds; chalets have been in use in four County Hospitals and Institutions, and co-operation at all hospitals, county and voluntary, has been excellent.

A year ago members of the After-Care Committee wondered whether their work would be curtailed after the commencement of the Treatment Allowances Scheme. Actually the work has increased perhaps because tuberculosis is not a disease solely of medical interest; it has also a wide sociological and economic significance, and in the application of fixed scales of payment each family has to be studied as a separate problem.

This voluntary Committee completed its 9th year of excellent work. 112 cases were dealt with during the year and were assisted in various ways, mainly by milk allowances. The amount expended by the Committee during this year was £593 10s. 10d. The Christmas Seal Sale, again organised by Mrs. Compton, was a record one and resulted in the handing over of £341 11s. 7d. to the Care Committee's account.

Routine weekly sessions were held for artificial pneumonothorax treatment, and 439 refills were given.

Except for temporary emergencies, there are still no beds in the County for pulmonary cases. Patients have been accommodated in out-county sanatoria when vacancies could be obtained and open-air shelters have been used to a large extent for patients treated at home.

Seven pulmonary cases (including observation cases) were treated in the Holland County Emergency Hospital, and 2 in Wyberton West Hospital. 25 patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis were admitted to out-county sanatoria, namely, 4, to Kelling Sanatorium, 2 to Nayland, 2 to Ransom Sanatorium, 13 to Creaton, 2 to Branston Hall, 1 to Papworth Colony, and 1 to Brompton Hospital.

24 non-pulmonary cases were treated in the Holland County Emergency Hospital, 4 at Freiston Hall Sick Bay and 2 at Harlow Wood Hospital.

The following table shows since 1940 the new cases of tuberculosis notified each year in the administrative County together with the case-rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year.	Notifications.			Case-rate per 1,000 of the population.		
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis (all forms).	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis (all forms).
1940	45	27	72	.46	.27	.74
1941	41	27	68	.43	.29	.71
1942	65	33	98	.68	.35	1.03
1943	52	26	78	.56	.28	.84

The table which follows shows the number of deaths registered and the death rates recorded during the years 1940 to 1943 in the administrative County.

Year.	Deaths.			Death rate per 1,000 of the population.		
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis (all forms).	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis (all forms).
1940	42	11	53	.43	.12	.55
1941	27	8	35	.28	.07	.35
1942	28	13	41	.30	.14	.44
1943	23	6	29	.25	.07	.33

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Part I.—Summary of Notifications during the period 1st Jan., 1943, to the 31st Dec., 1943, in the area of the County of Lincolnshire (Holland).

AGE PERIODS	Formal Notifications											
	Number of Primary Notifications of new cases of tuberculosis											
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65	Total
Pulmonary— Males	1	—	—	—	5	4	6	7	5	4	1	33
Females	—	—	1	—	—	5	4	3	3	2	1	19
Non-Pulmonary— Males	1	2	2	1	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	11
Females	1	7	2	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	15

Part II.—Supplemental Return.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above mentioned period, otherwise than by formal notification.

Pulmonary— Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	5
Females	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
Non-Pulmonary— Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Return showing the work of the Dispensaries during the year 1943.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary						Non-Pulmonary						Total						Grand Total						
	Adults						Children						Adults							Children					
	M			F			M			F			M			F				M			F		
A--Number of definite cases on Register at beginning of year	96	75	6	9			27	21	26	29															
Inward transfers	2	1	—	1			—	—	—	—															
B--Number of new cases diagnosed during the year.																									
Class T.B. minus	10	7	2	—			—	—	—	—															
Class T.B. plus	15	7	2	—			—	—	—	—															
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—			1	4	6	11															
C--Number of cases in A and B written off during the year.																									
Recovered	16	11	2	1			1	2	3	3															
Dead (all causes)	17	2	1	—			2	—	1	1															
Removed to other areas	4	1	—	—			—	1	1	—															
For other reasons	3	3	—	1			—	—	—	1															
D--Number of definite cases on Register at the end of the year	83	72	7	8			25	22	27	35															

HOLLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY HOSPITAL, BOSTON.

The following is a statement of cases treated during the year:

In-patients.

E.M.S. patients	...	...	...	...	...	...	291
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
County Orthopædic cases (M. & C.W. Scheme)	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
„ „ „ (School Medical Service)	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Boston „ „ (M. & C.W. Scheme)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ „ (School Medical Service)	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
General—adult orthopædic cases, and general medical and surgical cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
							<hr/> 537 <hr/>

Out-patients.

Massage Department	...	...	...	...	4,079 attendances
X-Ray	„	...	...	...	1,280 „
Plaster	„	...	...	...	77 „
Examinations (various)	...	...	...	...	445 „

WYBERTON WEST HOSPITAL, BOSTON.

There was an increase in the number of patients admitted during the year and this hospital continued to serve a very useful purpose. 485 patients were admitted as follows :—

E.M.S.	...	...	...	...	158
Cases for cleansing	...	...	...	...	81
Public Health cases	...	...	...	...	143
Public Assistance cases	...	...	...	...	103

The conditions treated were :—Scabies, 96 ; Verminous conditions, 19 ; Impetigo and various skin diseases, 60 ; Pneumonia and bronchitis, 45 ; Tuberculosis, 7 ; Orthopaedic, 21 ; Malnutrition, 4 ; children under care, 33 ; general medical, 200.

It will be noted that 115 cases of scabies and verminous infestations were treated during the year. Many of these cases were grossly involved and often presented themselves with histories of several weeks' duration.

The setting up of a public cleansing centre in Boston should lead to a smaller number of patients for in-patient treatment.

SICK BAY, FREISTON HALL, NR. BOSTON.

Orthopædic conditions	...	...	...	...	18
Skin diseases	...	...	...	...	10
Minor ailments	...	...	...	...	8
Bed wetters	...	...	...	...	3
Children (per Public Assistance Dept.)	...	...	...	...	47
Convalescent children	...	...	...	...	12
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1

15 children were in the Sick Bay at the end of the year.

HOLBEACH EMERGENCY HOSPITAL.

Although established primarily for E.M.S. cases the hospital is increasingly used by the local residents whose interest in its development is shown by their remarkable generosity. Their gifts have made possible the opening of a small physio-therapy department containing a Hanovia ultra-violet lamp and a Sollux infra-red lamp. Mrs. W. F. Howard is acting in a voluntary capacity as masseuse and in her first year has treated a total of 109 patients who made 753 attendances.

Dr. C. E. S. Jackson resigned his appointment as consulting surgeon to the County Council in October, but still remains available for E.M.S. work. Mr. R. S. de Bruyn was appointed to succeed Dr. Jackson and attends once weekly, and when required for emergencies.

During the year 669 in-patients were admitted, an increase of 152 over 1942. These were suffering from the following conditions:

Medical cases	...	...	...	...	224
Surgical cases	...	...	...	...	445

The surgical cases included 35 gynæcological patients, 158 ear, nose and throat conditions and 124 injuries of various kinds.

286 operations were performed upon in-patients.

459 out-patient attendances were made and

657 X-Rays were taken.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

This work is administered by a special department and there is no change to report.

CONSULTANT SERVICE.

Arrangements were made during the year for Dr. J. W. Brown, Consultant Physician, Grimsby and District Hospital, to attend once a fortnight at the Wyberton West Hospital (formerly Emergency Hospital Annexe) and at the Holbeach and District Hospital once every two months for the purpose of holding an out-patient clinic.

Arrangements were also made for Mr. R. S. de Bruyn, F.R.C.S., of Stamford, to make a weekly visit to the Holbeach Emergency Hospital for tonsillectomies and other surgery. He also attends on calls for emergencies.

BOSTON AND DISTRICT BENEFIT SOCIETY FOR HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

Some difficulty arose in connection with the assessment of contributors to the Boston and District Benefit Society when admitted for treatment either to the Holland County Emergency Hospital or to Wyberton West Hospital. Such cases are mainly fractures, orthopædic, chronic medical, or patients suffering from skin conditions, and the two hospitals mentioned have special facilities for dealing with such cases. Eventually it was agreed that the Society would be responsible to the extent of 3/- a day for a contributor provided that (a) the patient could not be accommodated at the Boston General Hospital or (b) when the patient's doctor was of opinion that more suitable treatment could be given at one of the Council's hospitals.

VOLUNTEER CAR POOL.

In addition to the use of the Council's ambulance service, emergency transport to and from hospitals and clinics has been provided for "urgent medical purposes" through the volunteer car pools operated by the Women's Voluntary Services. Mrs. Morris, with headquarters at Fydell House, Boston, has organised the service for North Holland, and Mrs. Myers, of Spalding, for the South Holland area.

STAFF.

Dr. J. O'Connor, temporary Assistant Medical Officer of Health, resigned on 30th November, 1943. No successor was appointed.

